

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 SAM-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00

MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 121151Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3165

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T RABAT 4409

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SS MASS SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA AND TANK DELIVERIES TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 196922

1. FONMIN LARAKI AND I MET FOR TOUR D'HORIZON SEPT 11, DURING WHICH I MADE PRESENTATION OUTLINED IN REFTEL. I ALSO NOTED THAT PENDING TANK TRANSACTION NOT ENTIRELY SECRET, SPANISH GOVT HAVING SHOWN SOME INTEREST. STRESSING OUR HOPE THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO SAHARA ISSUE, I EXPRESSED EVERY CONFIDENCE WE COULD RELY ON WORD OF KING CONVEYED TO ME LAST DECEMBER THAT WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF U.S., INCLUDING SPAIN.

2. LARAKI RESPONDED VIGOROUSLY THAT U.S. HAD NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT IN THIS REGARD. SIGNIFICANCE OF WORD OF KING WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY MOROCCAN SIDE AND THIS PROMISE WOULD BE KEPT. LARAKI SAID HE COULD GO EVEN FURTHER AND STATE THAT NO REPEAT NO INITIATIVE TO ESCALATE INTO AN ARMED STRUGGLE WOULD BE TAKEN BY MOROCCO. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION AS TO KING'S PROMISE, LARAKI UNDERLINED.

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3. LARAKI ADDED THAT GOM CURRENTLY AFRAID OF ALGERIAN

INFILTRATION FROM TINDOUF AREA. SPANIARDS HAD INFORMED GOM OF OCCURRENCE OF SOME INFILTRATION. STRUGGLE WAS NOT AGAINST SPAIN, LARAKI CONTINUED, BUT AGAINST OTHERS WHO WOULD MOVE INTO POTENTIAL VACUUM IN SAHARA. IT WAS THEREFORE IN COMMON MOROCCAN AND SPANISH INTEREST TO SEE THAT NO VACUUM CAME INTO BEING.

4. ON GOS-GOM DIALOGUE, LARAKI SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY POSITIVE NATURE OF TALKS IN MADRID AUGUST 12-13. PROGRESS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MADE REGARDING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF SAHARAN ISSUE, AND BOTH GOM AND GOS WANTED GOOD RELATIONS. THIS ACCORDS WITH IMPRESSION EXPRESSED TO ME BY SPANISH AMB SEPT 11, REPORTED RABAT 4404. (OTHER COMMENTS BY LARAKI ON SAHARA BY SEPTTEL.)
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